

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 IO-13 /147 W

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R 261031Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5152

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY KAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13514

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR, SG, VS

SUBJECT: SENEGAL RECOGNIZES PRG

REF: (A) DAKAR 3069; (B) DAKAR 3037

1. ON JULY 23 THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED AT HIS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING THAT AN INVITATION HAD BEEN SENT TO SENEGAL TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO VIET-NAM "FOR AN ON THE SPOT SURVEY OF THE VIET-NAM SITUATION" IN ORDER TO HELP THE SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT "KNOW THE TRUTH THAT THERE IS A SOLE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM." THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED ANOTHER STATEMENT MADE BY MFA SPOKESMAN ON JULY 21 REFUTING LEGAL ARGUMENT CONTAINED IN SENEGALESE JULY 19 STATEMENT (REF B) THAT ARTICLES 9 AND 14 OF PARIS AGREEMENT GAVE BOTH GVN AND PRG EQUAL STATUS AS TEMPORARY GOVERNMENTS WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY BE REPLACED BY A SINGLE GOVERNMENT RESULTING FROM GENERAL ELECTIONS. SPOKESMAN FURTHER SAID ON THIS OCCASION THAT GVN WOULD PUT OUT OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL AND DECIDE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WHETHER TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

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2. MFA WORKING LEVEL INFORMS US NO REPLY REALLY EXPECTED TO INVITATION FOR SENEGALESE REPRESENTATIVES WHICH HAS JUST BEEN SENT TO GVN CHARGE IN DAKAR AND IS BASICALLY A GESTURE FOR THE RECORD.

3. WE HAVE NO INDICATION YET OF WHAT ACTION GVN WILL TAKE ON THIS MATTER. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER LAM, A PRAGMATIST, AND PERSONALLY RELUCTANT TO SEVER RELATIONS, NEVERTHELESS SEES DANGEROUS PRECEDENT BEING SET IF GVN ACQUIESCES IN DUAL RECOGNITION AS IT MIGHT ENCOURAGE OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO RECOGNIZE PRG IF THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD DO SO WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THEIR TIES WITH GVN. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT PRESENT ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER DUC WOULD BE MORE APT TO OPT FOR STRICTLY LEGAL REACTION, AS EVIDENCED BY HIS HANDLING OF THE CASE, AND SEVER RELATIONS.

4. WE AGREE WITH DAKAR THAT THIS CASE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED WITH MORE FINESSE AND WE WILL SEEK DISCREETLY TO MAKE THIS POINT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. EXPERIENCE IN DAKAR ALSO OUTLINES CRYING NEED TO KEEP SUCH GVN EMBASSIER AS DAKAR ADEQUATELY MANNED AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS POINT WITH THE GVN.

5. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT THE GVN WILL CHOOSE A MIDDLE COURSE, THAT IS TO DOWNGRADE THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION IN DAKAR WITHOUT SEVERING RELATIONS.

MARTIN

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NNN

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